

and praise of community leaders, such as Houston Mayors Lee Brown and Bob Lanier, former Chiefs of Police and countless community organizations. Captain Bullock is a community minded captain who has played an integral role in the revitalization of the Fondren area of southwest Houston. His suggestions and continuous support for the community's fundraising events have substantially contributed to the growth of the Fondren economy. Additionally, Captain Bullock's successful efforts to establish the Fondren Division of the HPD in 1998 exemplifies his concern for the safety of the community, as well as his drive and determination to improve the quality of life in the Houston area.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Captain Bullock on his 43 years of exceptional service to the Houston Police Department and applaud his leadership in the development and enhancement of the Fondren community.

HONORING COMMUNITY VETERANS

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and give thanks to Latino veterans across the nation and in New York's 12th District—those brave soldiers who served in our Armed Forces during times of turmoil and crisis in our nation's history.

Today, the National Federation of Puerto Rican Pioneers, Inc., also known as Los Pioneros, of Williamsburg, Brooklyn celebrates another anniversary to honor the many Puerto Ricans who so bravely served in our Armed Services.

Given the war against terrorism our great nation is now waging both here and overseas, I believe we must take time to honor and give thanks to a few of our nation's Latino veterans from the 12th District. Many of these men were young men, unaware of how war would change them when they enlisted in the Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. They joined the service with hopes of strengthening our nation's security, fighting for the ideals of democracy and freedom, and ensuring a more peaceful world. Although many returned home with lasting wounds, their spirit was never broken. These Puerto Rican veterans answered the call to duty. That is why I have been a strong advocate for them during my service in the United States Congress. These soldiers did not disappoint this nation when we needed their service, and it is our solemn obligation to guarantee that they are remembered and cared for in their time of need.

Therefore, it is with much appreciation that I honor my Puerto Ricans brothers in spirit on their special day: Luis A. Fantauzzi, 1941–49; Victor Garcia, 1952–58; Jesus Rivera, Sr., 1954–58; Jesus Rivera, Jr., 1954–58; Victor L. Robles, 1954–58; Jose R. Torres, 1954–56; Herbert Zayas, 1954–56; Israel Perez, 1954–56; Nelson Cora, 1954–56; Pedro Colon, Jr., 1960–64; Edward Elba, 1960–64; Robert Guilbe, 1960–62; Roberto Maldonado, 1966–68; Guillermo Martinez, 1966–68; Gilberto Mercardo, 1966–68; Felix Lopez, 1966–69; Hector L. Soto, 1975–78; Ismael Torres, Jr., 1975–78; Nelson Torres, 1975–78; Edison P.

Rivera, 1975–78; Eugenio Maldonado, 1975–78; Gilbert Figueroa, 1979–82; Felix W. Ortiz, 1984–86; and Walter Figueroa, 1985–90.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. SHELLIE SAMPSON JR.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Reverend Dr. Shellie Sampson, Jr., a remarkable spiritual counselor and community leader, on his 20th anniversary as Pastor of the Thessalonian Baptist Church in the Bronx.

Reverend Sampson was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey, but his extensive education has taken him all over the Northeast. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Rutgers University and went on to receive his Masters of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry from Drew University. Reverend Sampson studied at the prestigious Princeton Theological Seminary and New York University. As if he had not achieved enough academically already, Reverend Sampson also received an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Virginia University and is currently a Doctoral Candidate at Temple University.

Mr. Speaker, since his arrival to New York's religious community 20 years ago, Reverend Sampson has made many unforgettable changes. He played a major role in the construction of the Thessalonian Cultural Community Center which has helped to unite the community and provide recreation and a number of services. Also, as a result of his efforts, the Thessalonian Elementary Academy and the Thessalonian Institute of Education were established to provide people of faith with exceptional educational opportunities.

The man I am honoring today has been an example of leadership for his congregation and many community members. The community programs that he has spearheaded dealing with education, homelessness, senior citizens, and youth are too numerous to mention. As a result of all that he does and has done, Reverend Sampson has been the recipient of a number of awards and has been placed in many leadership positions throughout his 30 years in ministry. Reverend Sampson has served as a religious guide, friend, confidant, and teacher. He has maintained not only the spiritual strength of his church, but has made sure that its physical foundation remained sound as well with renovations. Along with his intensive studies, Reverend Sampson is somehow still able to successfully lead and uplift his congregation and be a loving husband and father to his eight children. He is truly a remarkable individual.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Reverend Dr. Shellie Sampson, Jr.'s 20 years of exceptional service to the Thessalonian Baptist Church congregation and to the entire Bronx community.

RECOGNIZING WEST VIRGINIA SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTER OF THE YEAR, EWELL A. FERGUSON

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ewell A. Ferguson, owner of GTR LABS, Incorporated, in the Second Congressional District of West Virginia. Mr. Ferguson has achieved the title of Small Business Exporter of the Year. The West Virginia District of the United States Small Business Administration, a leader in the promotion and growth of our state, gives this award annually.

Mr. Ferguson incorporated GTR LABS in 1994 in Gassaway, West Virginia with an idea to produce a new and innovative high frequency x-ray generator. His products are exported to over 15 countries worldwide. Mr. Ferguson embodies the values that created the American success story: self-reliance, hard work, perseverance, and optimism. I commend him for his contributions to the West Virginia economy.

Successful small businesses not only serve as the backbone of the economy, they anchor communities and promote civic pride. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Ewell's tremendous achievement as the West Virginia Small Business Administration's Small Business Exporter of the Year.

IN HONOR OF THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAACP BAYONNE BRANCH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bayonne branch of the NAACP on its 75th Anniversary. The "Freedom Fund Dinner" took place on Saturday, May 17, 2002, at the Hi-Hat Caterers. In addition to celebrating this momentous anniversary, the Bayonne NAACP honored eight exemplary citizens, including: Mario Joseph Depeine, Howard Fitch, Jane R. Roberts, Nancy Barnes, Willie J. Graham, Kathleen R. McQuilla, Richard Burroughs, and John R. McGee. Nationally renowned Emmy Award-winner Gil Noble was the featured speaker.

Founded in 1927 by Mr. Ferdinand Smith, the NAACP Bayonne branch has helped gain political, educational, and economic status for minority groups, and continues to actively promote social justice and a better life for all Americans.

Over the past 75 years, the Bayonne branch has proved to be an integral part of the Civil Rights Movement by successfully facilitating tile integration of several institutions and organizations throughout New Jersey. This dynamic Association participated in the March on Washington in 1963, organized numerous desegregation demonstrations, and helped introduce multi-ethnic textbooks in schools. It continues to serve as a resource that preserves the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement and